Preserving History in the Summer of 2024

1. Sibley Signs

2. Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs

3. Jones House Repairs

4. Strevell House Repairs

5. Fairbury Marsh Park Painting

6. Strevell House Gutters

"How I spent my summer"

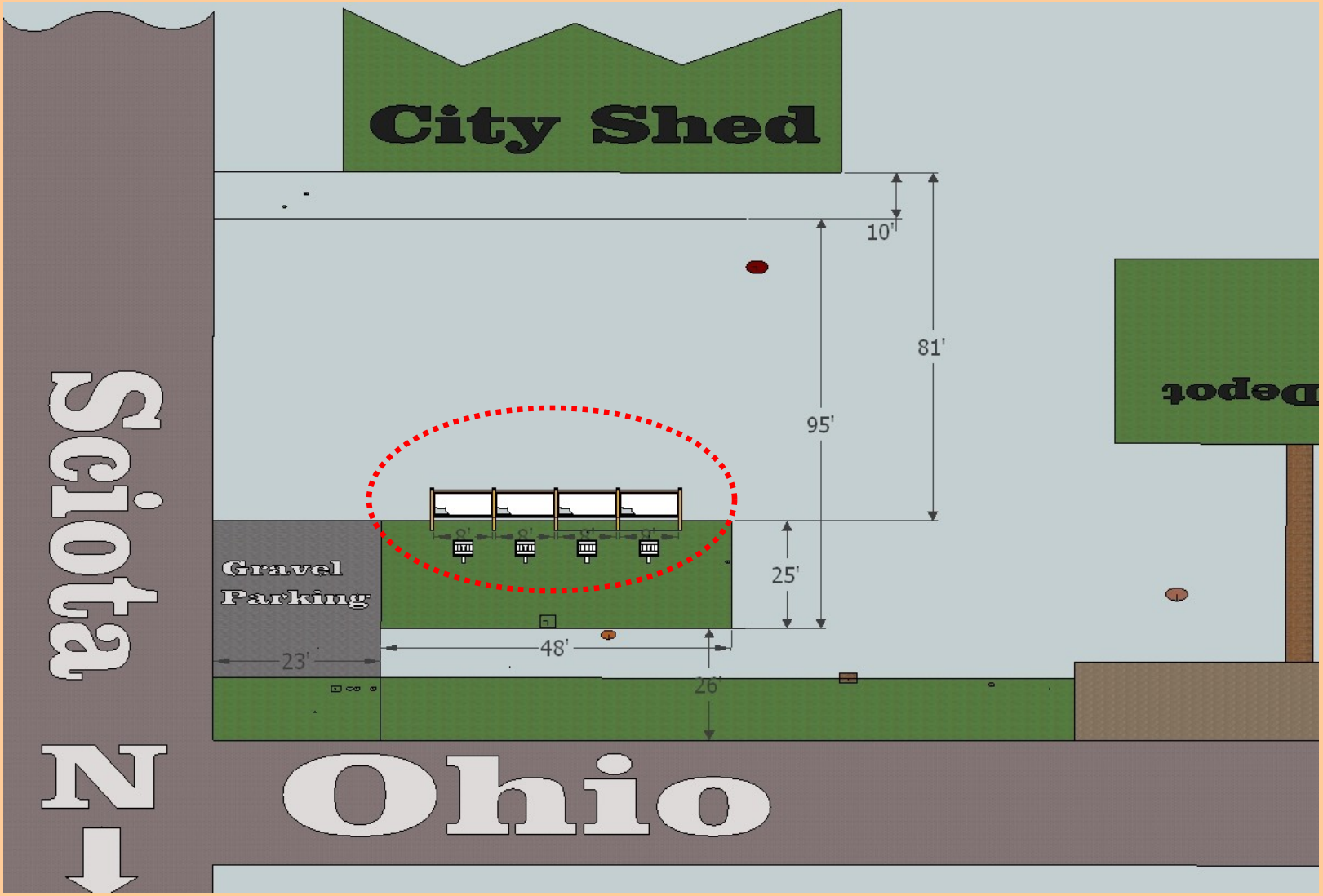
Fairbury

Installed (5) Historic Murals in Summer of 2016

Colfax

Installed (4) Historic Murals in Summer of 2022

Sibley - 2024


City Shed
10'
81'
95'
25'
Gravel
Parking
23'
48'
26'
Depot
Scioto
N
Ohio

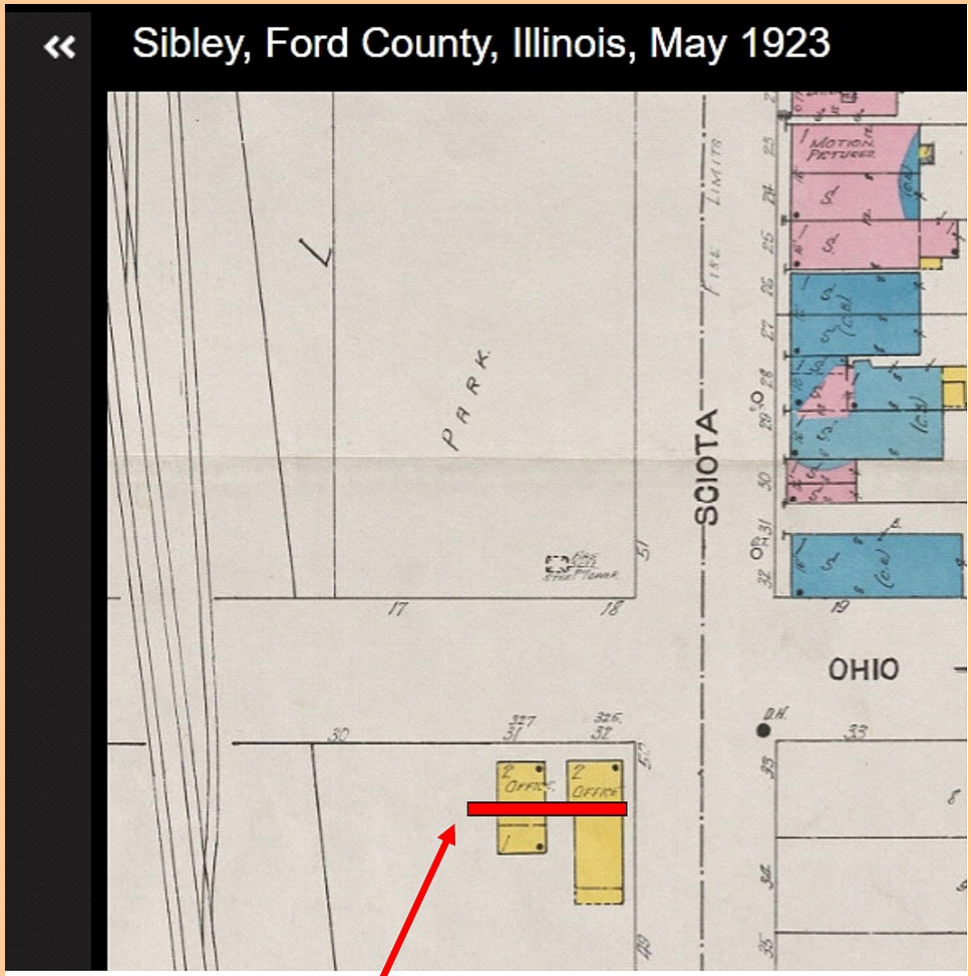
Sibley - 2024

- Site of new park with 4 murals
- Old Depot on RH side, Sullivant Twp shed in rear
- Sibley group got “millings” for a ground surface

Sibley - 2024

- Had to dig 7 holes each 36” deep
- Hit bricks, rocks, ceramic blocks about every hole!

Sibley - 2024



- (2) buildings in 1923
- Sibley Hotel last
- Building burned intentionally & bricks pushed into basement
- 12 inches topsoil placed on top of rubble

Sibley - 2024

- Laid on ground with 1 arm in hole to loosen and pull out bricks
- Heard woman yelling something
- Stopped, pulled arm out of hole and sat up
- She had stopped her car and got out onto street
- She yelled **“Mr., are you Ok?”**
- I was Ok

Sibley - 2024

- Ready to pour concrete after checking plywood panel fit

Sibley - 2024

- Painted plywood in Fairbury garage
- Installed plywood sheets before pouring concrete in case any “fine tuning” of posts needed
- All 4 sheets fit fine ☺

Sibley - 2024

- Setting posts for Text Boxes

- Special red 2-sided level is a very handy tool !!

Sibley - 2024

- Set 2 posts on the ends 1st
- Run string between them
- Makes sure 2 center posts in line with end posts

Sibley - 2024

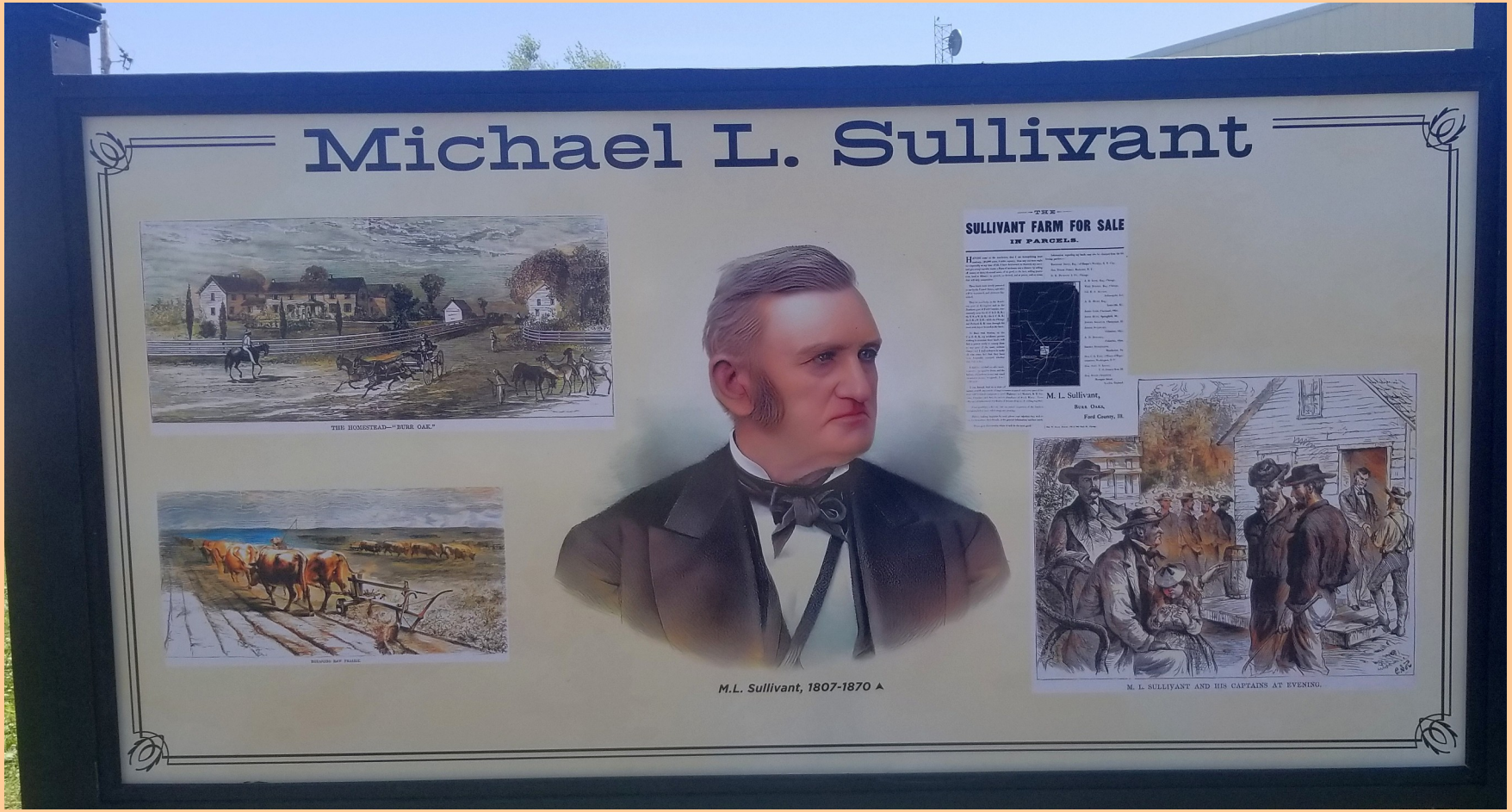
- Text boxes very heavy
- Made special fixture in 2016 for Fairbury project
- Saved fixture
- Re-used fixture in Colfax and Sibley
- Fixture holds Text Box at right height and angle ☺
- Not throwing away the old fixture yet ☺ ☺

Cropsey?

Sibley - 2024

- Historical images by Derrick Babbs and Marge Vetter
- Murals printed by AfterShock in Fairbury

Sibley - 2024



- Historical Images turned out “Gorgeous” ☺
- 40,000 Acres – Largest farm in America in 1871

Sibley - 2024

"Before" Photo on May 17, 2024

"After" Photo on June 7, 2024

- **Other additions before July 4th Dedication….**
- Old Street light
- Solar lighting on murals
- Park benches
- Flower pots
- Sibley Land Office new museum opening

Sibley - 2024

- **July 4th**

- Sibley Land Office new museum opened

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

- New awning built summer of 2023 (took 8 weeks)
- Repairs in back of Museum in 2024

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

- How to clean?
- Repaint?

(Painting metal never turns out very pretty)

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

Nussbaum HARDWARE
ACE
YOUR ONE STOP HARDWARE CENTER

- Fairbury Ace white pail from Jones House brick wall repair job Summer of 2022

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

WOW !!

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

Before

After Cleaning

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

- Old chimney
- Has galvanized flue pipe inside
- Once water gets in, freezing and thawing starts working
- Damage gets worse over time

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

- All loose mortar removed
- All loose bricks removed and cleaned of old mortar
- Wet old bricks & mortar before applying new mortar

Fairbury Echoes Museum Repairs - 2024

"After" repairs were completed on June 5, 2024.
Loose bricks re-layed with new mortar.
Surface of bricks covered with new mortar.
Should keep out the water for several years.

Jones House Repairs - 2024

- Oldest brick house in Pontiac….Built in 1857
- On National Register of Historic Places

3 "Flat" roofs

Jones House Repairs - 2024

- Found roof damaged Summer of 2023 painting trim
- John Tollensdorf, “Cleaning will be tough part”

Jones House Repairs - 2024

Mark Osman Rescue

- Cleaning in-process
- Same cleaning method as Fairbury Museum steel door
- Tried 2 cleaning products, + bleach & water, all failed

Green mold – Black mold Cycle over many years

Jones House Repairs - 2024

- Old coating failed at solder joint seams
- Original brown paint
- Removed all “loose” old coating

Jones House Repairs - 2024

- Brushed 2 coats new sealer on bad spots
- Rolled 3 coats on South Porch roof (worst)
- 2 coats on East and North roofs

Jones House Repairs - 2024

South porch of Jones House in Pontiac after cleaning, repairing bad spots, and rolling on two coats of new roof coating.

Jones House Repairs - 2024

- Black mold worst on East side porch
- Of the 3 porches, it has the most shade from big shade trees
- Lots of "Elbow Grease"

Jones House Repairs - 2024

- Rotting soffit boards
- Found painting trim in Summer of 2023

Jones House Repairs - 2024

There was a small hole in the tin roof that let water run down the plywood sheeting and into the soffit. Small hole fixed by recoating tin roof with 3 coats. Tested after coating with water hose, and no leaks now. Horizontal soffit board rotted and 2 vertical siding pieces below.

Jones House Repairs - 2024

New 5" by 60" long horizontal soffit board installed. Made by planing 1" thick pressure-treated deck board to 1/2" thickness. Two new cedar siding boards 58.75" long. Caulked and ready to prime and paint.

Menard’s Special Order for new Cedar siding

Jones House Repairs - 2024

Repairs completed to damaged wood caused by roof leak. Primed and painted with 2 coats. Looks like brand new ☺

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

- House built in 1854 (170 years old)
- Lincoln spent afternoon & evening in house in 1860

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

Bottom wood siding board completely rotted away by faucet.

Most of the wood siding is 170 years old !!

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

2 new pressure-treated 2 by 4 pieces screwed to existing stud….to the left of the hammer. Provides way to attach siding pieces to the house.

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

New cedar wood siding board to replace rotten piece. Brown aluminum pieces to seal up around faucet. Caulked and ready to prime and paint.

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

Repairs completed. (1) coat of primer and (2) coats of dark red paint to match house from Fairbury Ace Hardware.

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

- Rotten soffit to repair.

- Needs Gutters !

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

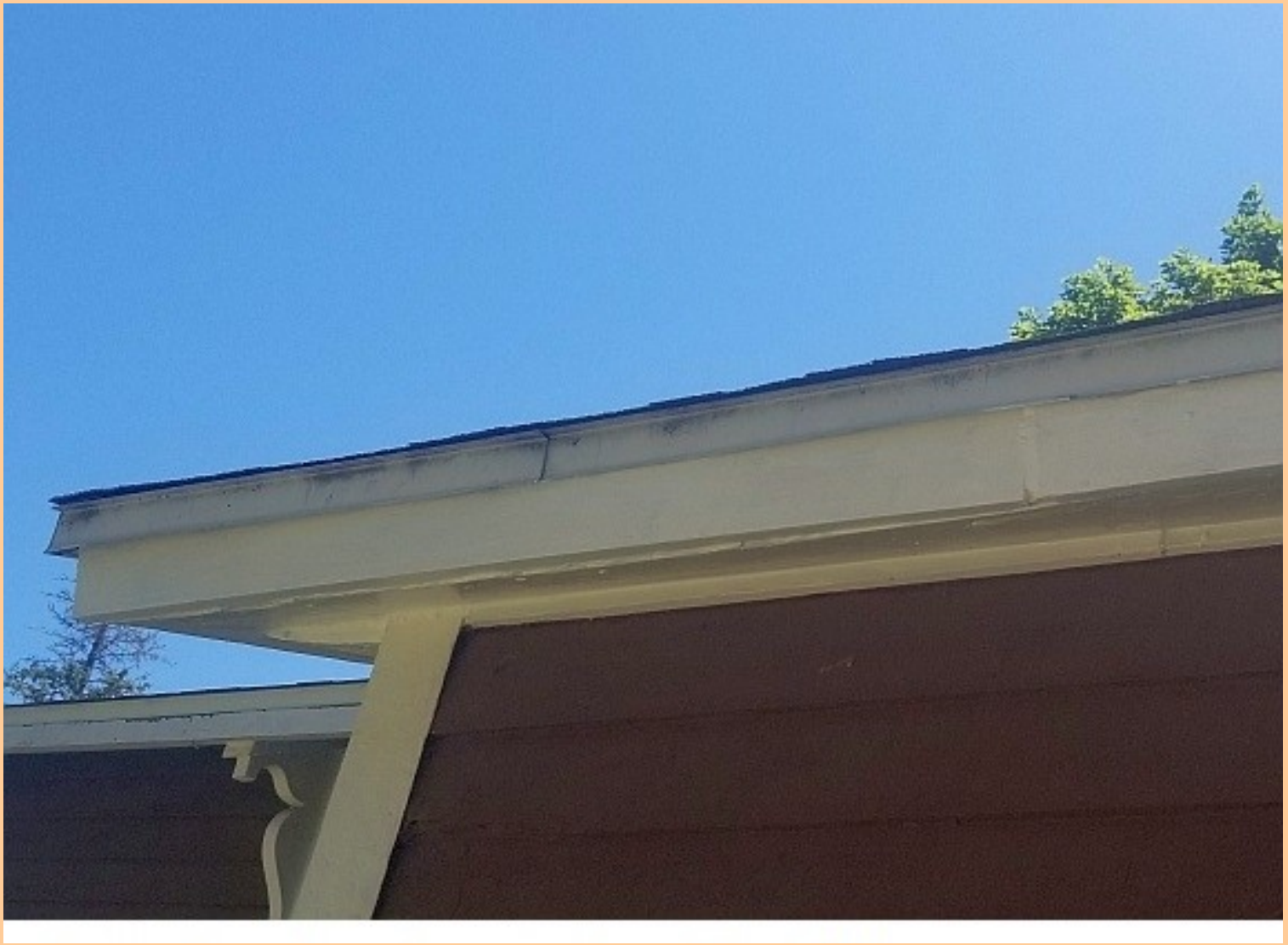
Found Bird's Nest #1 ☺

Facia board rotten on Strevell House restroom.

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

New pressure-treated wood installed and joints caulked…ready to prime and paint,

Strevell House Repairs - 2024



Rotten facia board repaired on Strevell House.

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

Hard to see, but a small bird flew out of the gap in the top soffit boards !

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

Simplest way to seal up the gaps was to add 3 new pressure-treated wood blocks to keep out the birds. Caulked, primed, and painted.

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

- Red fades the worst
- Painted last 2022, or 2 years ago
- South side or front gets all the sunlight

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

June 27, 2024

Strevell House Repairs - 2024

- Painted whole house Summer of 2022
- Red color fades the worst. South side gets the sun.
- Repainted front only - Summer of 2024

Marsh Park - 2024

- Been 7 years since Marsh Park renovation (2017)
- Good and bad news on bright colors for playground equipment
- Repainted all playground equipment & building trim

Marsh Park - 2024

- Toughest piece of playground equipment to repaint !!

- Playground equipment is 66 years old !

(1958)

Marsh Park - 2024

- 4 different bright colors

- Took 10 quarts of oil-based paint to repaint 8 pieces of equipment

Marsh Park - 2024

- Repainted selected parts of 8 different buildings

Marsh Park - 2024

- Repainted over 300 feet of Facia board on 6 different buildings
- No gutters, so facia boards rot prematurely (like Strevell house)

Strevell House Gutters

- Jones House has modern gutters
- Gutters never got installed on Strevell House when renovations completed in 2018
- Facia boards rotting prematurely in several places

Strevell House Gutters

- **“Stand-Off”** attachment for extension ladders
- Gives you room to install the gutters
- Saw on YouTube, so bought one….Worked Great !!

Strevell House Gutters

Most the many small pieces required to build the gutter.

Boy…it takes a lot of pieces !!

Strevell House Gutters

New gutter section built on the ground and ready to install on south side of Kitchen.

Strevell House Gutters

•Was able to keep ladder out of pretty yellow flowers ☺

Strevell House Gutters

New gutter installed on south side of kitchen. Downspout extension can be folded up when mowing.

Strevell House Gutters

New gutters installed on N. side of Kitchen, W. side of bathroom, and W. side of conference room.

Strevell House Gutters

Ready to lift up the 25 foot long section of new gutter for the east side of the Conference Room in the 1854 Strevell House in Pontiac.

- Last piece was the “trickiest” because 25 foot long ☺

- Did in 2 sections
  1 long & 1 short

Strevell House Gutters

25 foot long section of new gutter installed on East side of Conference Room.

Summer 2024 Projects

- Started in Sibley Project on May 4, 2024
- Finished Strevell Gutters on August 9, 2024

Summer 2025 Projects

- Fairbury Marsh Park – Paint Exterior Screened in Pavilion
- Cropsey – Install historic Murals in new park ?
- Jones & Strevell Houses – nothing yet on schedule

The End

Questions?